

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1719
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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LAMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3179
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, RO
SUBJ: BURTICA-GOMA MEETING
REF: BUCHAREST 1105 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. RCP SECRETARY AND DEPPRIMMIN CORNEL
BURTICA MET FEBRUARY 22 WITH ROMANIAN DISSIDENT AUTHOR
PAUL GOMA. AUTHOR NICOLAE BREBAN, WHO HAS ACTED AS GO-
BETWEEN, WAS ALSO PRESENT. DURING WHAT WAS APPARENTLY
A CORDIAL MEETING BURTICA REFUSED TO MAKE ANY PRIMISES,
BUT DID ARRANGE FOR SOME TRANSLATIONS DONE BY
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GOMA'S WIFE TO BE PUBLISHED AND ASKED TO READ
SEVERAL OF GOMA'S MANUSCRIPTS TO SEE IF THEY WERE
PUBLISHABLE. BURTICA ASSURED GOMA THAT NONE OF
SIGNATORIES OF MANIFESTO HAD BEEN ARRESTED.
MEETING APPARENTLY TERMINATED WITH GOMA SOMEWHAT
RELUCTANTLY ADOPTING A "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE AS
TO HIS FUTURE ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE TOLD BY LONDON TIMES REPORTER THAT DURING 90 MINUTE FEBRUARY 22 MEETING PARTY SECRETARY FOR PROPAGANDA AND CULTURE CORNEL BURTICA APPARENTLY CHIDED DISSIDENT ROMANIAN AUTHOR PAUL GOMA FOR "ACTIVITIES WHICH VERGED ON TREASON", BUT ADMITTED BOTH SIDES HAD MADE MISTAKES IN PAST. WHEN GOMA COMPLAINED OF NOT BEING PUBLISHED AND HIS DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATION, BURTICA IMMEDIATELY TOOK STEPS TO ARRANGE FOR PUBLICATION OF SEVERAL TRANSLATIONS FROM FRENCH DONE BY GOMA'S WIFE, BUT UNTIL NOW BANNED. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO PROBLEM OF MONEY ALLEGEDLY OWED BY GOMA TO WRITERS' UNION AND ASKED TO READ SEVERAL OF GOMA'S MANUSCRIPTS TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE PUBLISHABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT GOMA MIGHT WANT TO PEN SOME ARTICLES FOR VARIOUS ROMANIAN JOURNALS.

3. WHEN GOMA EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE ARREST OF TWO SIGNERS OF HIS MANIFESTO, FEHER AND STEFANESCU, BURTICA RANG TO PARTY SECRETARY FOR INTERNAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, ION STANESCU, WHO, WITH GOMA AND BREBAN LISTENING, ASSURED BURTICA THAT NO ONE HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

4. BURTICA IS SAID TO HAVE REPROACHED GOMA FOR HIS ASSERTION THAT ROMANIA WAS AN "OCCUPIED" COUNTRY AND DECLARED THAT A SIMPLE EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH CZECH CAUSE WOULD NOT HAVE CREATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS. BURTICA RECALLED THAT GOR HAD EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF CZECHS IN 1968, SHARED VIEWS OF PARTIES SUCH AS ITALIANS ON QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND HAD ON MANY OCCASIONS EXCHANGED "HARSH WORDS" WITH SOVIETS AND OTHERS.

5. APPARENTLY BREBAN AND GOMA SHARPLY CRITICIZED MANY OF PAST CULTURAL BUREAUCRATS, INCLUDING BURTICA RIVAL DUMITRU POPESCU, WHO THEY FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT STATE OF DISSATISFACTION. BURTICA DID NOT DISAGREE. GOMA REPORTEDLY TOLD BURTICA HE GREATLY APPRECIATED BURTICA'S WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN A HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH INTELLECTUALS WHICH HAD LAPSED SINCE 1968.

6. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO LONDON TIMES CORRESPONDENT (SOURCE FOR ABOVE) WHO TALKED WITH GOMA AND WITH BREBAN SEPARATELY IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING, GOMA CLEARLY RECOGNIZES HIS PRESENT DIFFICULT

POSITION. HE IS AWARE THAT LITTLE
SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED IN SPITE OF
CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING AND SUSPECTS THAT PERHAPS
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAD (A VIEW APPARENTLY
SHARED BY HIS WIFE BUT NOT BY BREBAN WHO IS
SAID TO BE HOPEFUL THAT CHANGES FOR THE BETTER
ARE IN THE OFFING). NEVETTHELESS, HE FEELS AN
OBLIGATION TO ADOPT A "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE FUTURE. THUS WITH GOMA AT LEAST
TEMPORARILY RESTRAINED, THE MANOLIUS IN PARIS,
GESSWEINS IN GERMANY AND WITH ANOTHER SIGNER,
BELDIVAN, WITH PASSPORT IN HAND, GOR SEEMS TO
HAVE DIFFUSED ITS DISSIDENT PROBLEM FOR THE
MOMENT. WHETHER ITS TACTICS WILL SUCCEED IN
THE LONG RUN IS STILL OPEN TO QUESTION.
BARNES

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